

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 were examined and acted upon in the aforesaid Office Action. Claims 1-8 have been cancelled and new claim 17 has been added, leaving claims 9-17 for consideration.

Turning first to claim 9, it has been held that claim 9 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome a 35 U.S.C. 112 rejection and to include all of the limitations of the base claim (1) and any intervening claims (2, 7 and 8).

Claim 9 has now been amended to include the limitations of claims 1, 2, 7 and 8. Further, claim 9 has now been amended to provide a more correct antecedent basis so as to overcome the rejection under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. Accordingly, it appears that claim 9, as amended, is in condition for allowance.

Claims 10-13 depend from claim 9 and should be deemed allowable at least through dependency.

Claims 14-16 have been amended to include the matters of claims 8 and 9 and would therefore appear to be allowable.

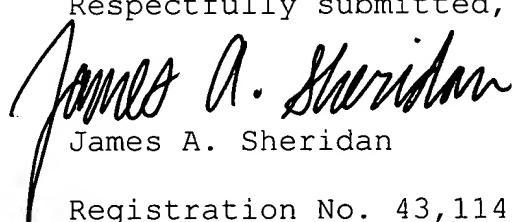
Applicants believe that the claim rejections under 35 USC 102(a), 35 USC 102(e), and 35 USC 103(a) are now moot in view of the above-identified amendments.

New claim 17 is limited to a body element having two converging walls and two generally parallel walls, with the vertices of the body element having a rounded configuration. It appears that claim 17 distinguishes from the prior art similarly to claim 9.

In review thereof, allowance of claims 9-17 is most respectfully requested.

In the event that any additional fees may be required to be paid in connection with this matter, please charge the same, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 16-0221.

Respectfully submitted,

 11/7/03
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